

# Program Administration

## **Air Force Entry**

All residents enter the United States Air Force (USAF) as reserve officers on extended active duty. This constitutes a Specified Period of Time Contract (SPTC) with a date of separation (date you may leave the Air Force) established on the contract. Those officers wishing to remain in the Air Force beyond their initial SPTC commitments must apply for Conditional Reserve Status (CRS) 1 1/2 years after entry into the Air Force.

## **Specialty Training Opportunities**

Dental officers may apply for USAF-sponsored specialty residencies during or after the AEGD residency training program. Formal postgraduate residencies are available in oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS), periodontics, prosthodontics, endodontics, general dentistry, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, and oral and maxillofacial pathology. An active duty service commitment “payback” is incurred as well as an obligation to challenge the certifying board of the chosen specialty. Most specialty training is conducted at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio TX, the USAF’s largest medical center. The medical center at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield CA, is also a specialty-training site. Air Force specialty programs are recognized nationwide for their scholastic excellence, and graduates of Air Force programs consistently perform well on board certification examinations.

## **State Dental License**

All Air force dentists must have a current and valid state dental license, however, this license does not have to be in the state in which the officer is currently assigned. Advanced Education in General Dentistry residents are allowed to enter the residency without a license but must secure a valid state license as soon as possible during the program. Residents entering the program without a state license are at a distinct disadvantage both financially and emotionally. Time to prepare for a licensing examination cannot be guaranteed during the residency, and all fees and expenses incurred to secure the state license will be at the resident’s personal expense. Residents should make every attempt to obtain a state dental license prior to entering active duty (this cannot be emphasized enough).

## **Commissioned Officer Training (COT)**

All dental officers reporting for residency training will first attend this four-week course. Located at Maxwell Air Force Base, COT training introduces new Air Force Dental officers to the Air Force way of life. Training includes their duties as officers, military customs, regulations,

and core values. AEGD Residents attend the course in June/July, immediately prior to the beginning of their residency. See “COT: A Resident’s Perspective” by 2001-2002 Scott AEGD resident, Captain Benjamin Clove.

## **Personal Appearance and Conduct**

As commissioned officers of the United States Air Force, exemplary bearing and behavior are expected. Residents have the responsibility of complying fully with standards of appearance and conduct. Initial USAF orientation briefings inform newcomers of these requirements.

## **Due Process-Restriction, Suspension, Withdrawal or Removal from Training**

A resident may withdraw or be removed from the program with the approval of the Office of the USAF Surgeon General for any of the following reasons: individual request, prolonged absence from the program, less than satisfactory performance, disciplinary problems, or national emergency.

## **American Dental Association Membership**

Membership in the American Dental Association (ADA) is encouraged. Resident status qualifies the member for a student membership with significantly reduced annual dues.

## **Academy of General Dentistry Membership**

Residents are encouraged to become members of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). Two hundred and fifty hours (250 hrs) of continuing education credits are awarded by the AGD for successful completion of the residency. Reduced annual dues are available for recent graduates.

## **Housing**

During this 1-year residency, time is at a premium. Minimal time is allotted to make initial housing arrangements following the start of the residency. Residents are encouraged (not required) to visit the Scott Air Force Base area prior to reporting in July/August to find suitable housing. New residents often seek the assistance of their sponsors (usually a current Scott resident) to make their move easier. We are all here to help make the move as smooth as possible. If you have any questions, you may call your sponsor, the Director, or the Deputy Director. We encourage you to call the Director or the Deputy Director at (618) 256-6667 to arrange a base tour or to answer your questions.

## **Orientation**

During the first 2 weeks of the training year, an orientation program is provided to acquaint the incoming residents with the administrative and organizational scheme of the clinic and base. Time will be allowed for the residents to process into the hospital and base, arrange for delivery of household goods, and to satisfy other in-processing requirements. In addition, residency orientation lectures and briefings are conducted prior to the beginning of clinical treatment, to familiarize residents with pertinent hospital/clinic protocols and residency policies/objectives.

## **Resident Schedules**

During orientation week, each resident is provided with the tentative academic calendar, containing a schedule of events such as clinical sessions, rotations, lectures, and meetings. Calendars are updated monthly, as needed. Patient care clinics in endodontics, operative dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, pediatric dentistry and orthodontics are held each week. Sessions in oral and maxillofacial surgery are taught in three-week rotations. (See Class Schedule)

## **Didactic Schedule**

**Weekly Lectures and Seminars:** Formal lectures and seminars are conducted beginning the second week of the residency and on a weekly rotating basis in the areas of comprehensive care/treatment planning, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, OMFS, pediatric dentistry, restorative and orthodontics.

**Conscious Sedation Training:** A three-day course in intravenous conscious sedation is conducted annually in the fall by the department of OFMS and augmented by clinical experience and didactic training throughout the academic year. Advanced Cardiac Life Support training is provided and certification is required.

**Consultant Visits:** The AEGD residency teaching staff is augmented with nationally recognized civilian and military educators and researchers. Scott AFB typically receives visits from experts in the fields of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Forensic Dentistry, Hospital Dentistry, Implants, and Dental Materials for additional clinical and didactic training.

## **Literature Reviews**

To keep residents on the cutting edge of sound dental research and practice (evidence-based dentistry), the various dental specialty departments will conduct formal literature reviews. Pertinent classic literature and recent literature will be reviewed. These sessions close the information gap between textbooks and recently published articles. Seminar assignments are published in advance of the dates scheduled, allowing sufficient time for preparation.

## **Intraoral Photography**

Early in the residency, training will be provided for various intraoral photography techniques. Digital & 35mm clinical cameras are used during the program. Additionally, intraoral digital cameras are available for use. Residents will be able to make photographic records of their accomplishments. Photography will also be used for training, clinical presentations, and continuing education opportunities.

## **Formal Presentations / Table Clinics**

Dentists with additional training are often called upon to present continuing education lectures to staff members, dental societies, and state and national dental meetings. To encourage this activity and to assist in the development and delivery of formal presentations, each resident will prepare and present a continuing education lecture on the topic of their choice. Additionally, residents present Table Clinics at the February meeting of the St Clair District Dental Society and the Hinman Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

## **Treatment Planning Conferences**

Residents and members of the teaching staff hold treatment planning conferences. The aim of these conferences is to develop advanced skills in the management of patients who present with complex dental problems. Diagnosis and treatment planning through the problem-oriented approach is emphasized. Cases are documented with full mouth intraoral photographs, mounted diagnostic casts, diagnostic wax-ups, complete radiographic studies, and periodontal and caries chartings. Each resident will formulate and present comprehensive treatment plans to the teaching staff during the year. In addition, treatment-planning exercises will be conducted using previously documented cases.

## **Resident On-Call Duties**

AEGD residents participate in the “on call” dental services offered by this facility. They serve on a rotating basis with other members of the dental staff to provide assistance to our patients that have dental emergencies after normal duty hours. Call is divided into 1 week increments, and residency staff members are assigned to the resident for that week. Additionally, the resident on call will be available to assist the Oral Surgeon in after-hours maxillofacial trauma cases.

## **Library**

The dental clinic library offers a wide range of current textbooks and periodicals. Interlibrary loans from Air Force Medical Centers may also be utilized. In addition, Internet search engines

are available for medical literature (Grateful Med and MD Consult). American Dental Association website resources are also accessible on clinic computers.

## **AEGD Education Committee**

The education committee meets monthly and is comprised of members of the teaching staff. Their primary goal is to ensure that the objectives of the program are being accomplished and that the residents are performing at a satisfactory level. The rotating chief resident presents resident feedback and suggestions during this meeting.

## **Leave (Vacation / Days Off) Policies**

Ordinary leave is limited to two weeks, taken during the scheduled December-January holiday season. Emergency leave may be taken, when warranted, and with the approval of the Director of Residency Training.

## **Illness**

Excused absences will be allowed in the event of illness. However, extended or repeat absences could result in removal from training at the discretion of the AEGD Education Committee. In such an event, due process policies would be followed.

## **Evaluation of Staff**

To help evaluate the effectiveness of the various components of the educational program, each resident will be asked to critique the program and staff. This constructive evaluation is designed to improve the educational outcomes of the program and to ensure the needs of the residents are being addressed. The AEGD Education Committee reviews these, and comments and suggestions are incorporated to enhance many aspects of the program.

## **Evaluation of Residents**

Constructive feedback is necessary at all educational levels, but it is especially important at this postdoctoral point in a resident's professional career. The Scott AFB teaching staff evaluates residents on a formal and informal basis. Informal evaluation is a daily process conducted by the teaching staff. The formal evaluation consists of written and oral examinations, with 2 written and 2 oral evaluations. Written exams are accomplished at the beginning and end of the residency training year. Oral board exams are usually accomplished in December and June. Semiannually (3 times per year), residents receive formal written evaluations that address such areas as academic performance, knowledge, clinical abilities, diagnosis and treatment planning,

productivity, attitude and motivation, patient management, professional behavior, administrative responsibility and communication skills. The Director provides feedback to each resident following the evaluations. A final Academic Training Report is prepared at the completion of the training year and entered into the resident's permanent USAF personnel folder.

### **Conscious Sedation Certification**

A certificate of training in intravenous conscious sedation may be awarded provided that specific criteria are fulfilled and competency is demonstrated. The chairperson of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery must recommend the awarding of the certificate, and the AEGD Education Committee must endorse the recommendation.

### **Infection Control Policy**

The infection control guidelines adhered to throughout the residency are in accordance with Air Force Instructions 47-101 and 44-108 and follow the "2000 US Air Force Dental Infection Control Guidelines."